

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously pending) A method of making a suspended or soluble protein conjugate, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) providing a reactive surface, protein that is capable of forming a stable, disruptable bond with the reactive solid-surface, and a Second Macromolecule,
- b) contacting the protein to the reactive solid-surface to form a surface-bound protein complex,
- c) if necessary, activating the protein, or Second Macromolecule, or both,
- d) contacting the surface bound protein with a reactive Second Macromolecule to form a solid-surface:protein:Second Macromolecule stable complex,

disrupting the stable bond between the solid-surface and the protein conjugate in a liquid medium to yield a suspended or soluble protein conjugate comprising the protein and the Second Macromolecule.

2 - 18. (canceled)

19. (previously pending) A conjugate produced by the method of claim 1, wherein the conjugate comprises only one antibody.

20. (previously pending) A conjugate produced by the method of claim 1, wherein the conjugate comprises a predetermined number of antibodies, wherein the number of antibodies is between 2 and 30.

21 - 25. (canceled)

26. (previously pending) A conjugate prepared according to claim 1 in which one of the macromolecules, preferably the first, comprises a chromophore rendering it optically distinguishable from the other macromolecules of the conjugate such that the final conjugate can be quantified according to the optical absorbance or fluorescence of said chromophore.

27. (previously pending) A conjugate according to claim 26, wherein the macromolecule is selected from the list R-phycoerythrin, B-phycoerythrin, and allophycocyanin.

28 -29. (canceled)